

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Connects™ National Provider Call: National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes - Tuesday, December 9; 1:30-3pm ET -During this MLN Connects Call, speakers will discuss innovative efforts from State-based Alzheimer's Association Chapters related to train-the-trainer programs, as well as the implementation of the Comfort First Approach in nursing homes. CMS subject matter experts will provide National Partnership updates and discuss next steps for the initiative. [Register](#) or visit the [December 9](#) call web page for more information.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8908

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8908

Related CR Release Date: November 26, 2014

Effective Date: April 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3132CP

Implementation Date: April 6, 2015

Quarterly Update to the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 21.1, Effective April 1, 2015

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 8908 informs MACs about the release of the latest package of CCI edits, Version 21.1, which will be effective April 1, 2015. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control

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improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment in Part B claims. The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

The latest package of NCCI edits, Version 21.1, effective April 1, 2015, will be available to the MACs via the CMS Data Center on or about January 31, 2015, and a final file will be available to them on or about February 14, 2015.

Version 21.1 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, NCCI was organized in two tables: Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits and Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits. In order to simplify the use of NCCI edit files (two tables), on April 1, 2012, CMS consolidated these two edit files into the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. Separate consolidations have occurred for the two practitioner NCCI edit files and the two NCCI edit files used for the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE). It will only be necessary to search the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for active or previously deleted edits. CMS no longer publishes a Mutually Exclusive edit file on its website for either practitioner or outpatient hospital services, since all active and deleted edits will appear in the single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file on each website. **The edits previously contained in the Mutually Exclusive edit file are NOT being deleted but are being moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file.** Refer to the CMS NCCI webpage for additional information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8908 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3132CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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